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**A fair play for the environment:  
The management of the impacts of sport  
on the environment**

A dissertation presented in partial fulfilment of the  
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# ABSTRACT

New Zealand's sporting organisations have not been placed under significant pressure in the past to effectively manage any negative environmental impacts that they may cause. However, the stakeholders of these organisations are beginning to exert pressure on them to change. In particular, the International Olympic Committee is placing an increased emphasis within its movement on environmental management. This research begins by analysing what sport's stakeholders may want in terms of change in the environmental management of sports.

This dissertation focuses on the environmental management tool called environmental management systems (EMS). EMS focuses on the organisation's management system in an attempt to make it more effective at detecting, monitoring and improving the organisation's environmental impacts. However EMS is a tool that has been developed within the commercial sector, where as sport is a voluntary, non-profit sector. The primary aim of this dissertation is to analysis the suitability of EMS for the New Zealand sporting sector.

All forty-one of New Zealand's sports national governing bodies affiliated to the Olympic movement are surveyed. In addition, four of the sports national governing bodies are interviewed in order to gain a deeper understanding of the motivation behind the decision making process.

Thirty-two responses were received from the national governing bodies. These responses, combined with the interviews, show that there is a low level of knowledge about environmental concepts. There is also a fairly negative attitude towards environmental management. The survey asked whether any of the organisations had considered implementing an assortment of concepts associated with EMS. Only one of the concepts (identifying their environmental responsibility) was likely to be incorporated into a majority of sporting organisations. However the interviews indicate that many see change as inevitable. It is argued however, that the sports organisations are better to be proactive in implementing an environmental management scheme. The thesis concludes with suggestions as to how New Zealand sports can implement a cost effective and appropriate EMS into their organisations.

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